**VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA** **April, 2017**

## THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

**The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.**

**We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.**

**Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance**

**The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2ndThursday of each month at 7:00 PM See map on last page.**

**Wheelchair accessible**

## Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvr.net

**Club repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3**
**The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!**

**Additional local repeater**
**WV6F 440.025(+) pl 127.3**

## 2017 Officers

**President: Frank Garay KJ6RWQ**
**VP:Doug Hollowell KJ6VHE**
**Treasurer: Bob Hewitt-K6HEW**
**Secretary: Brian Hagen-KK6BXP**
**Board of Directors:**
**Ruff Gunn KD6DME**
**Arthur Miller KI6UXE**
**Kevin Stow N6VLF**
**Bob Hawkins KM6BXZ**
**APPOINTED POSITIONS**
**VVRC Net Control Chairperson**
**Club Activities Chairperson-Frank Garay-KJ6RWQ**
**Newsletter Editor-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC**
**Newsletter Publishe/ Distributor-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW**

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## President's Message

**Date:** Apr 25, 2017 8:00 PM

So we have the pinnacle moment of Ham Radio upon us. Field Day.

Here is the official explanation from ARRL - *"**Field Day is ham radio's open house.** Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event.*

*Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio."* Now here's my explanation - *"Field Day is where a bunch of like-minded nerdy friends get together on a super hot day, setup big antenna's, canopy's, BBQ's, tables and chairs, and of course various radios, who then hang out with each other talking to all kinds of people around the country on all kinds of bands, eating food drinking whatever and having an overall awesome time for 2 whole days. Then they tear it all down, clean it all up and go back to normal civilian life filled with a ton of cool stories and memories.*

Remember last months message I wrote about "fellowship"? Well Field Day is where you'll get a mega-dose of it! Thanks to Tom - KE6MDM, we should have the privilege to operate as a club at the Nut Tree Airport once again. Hopefully by the time you read this we'll have it all confirmed. Granted if all goes as planned at the Nut Tree, It's hot, there's not a lot of shade there, but with enough canopy's and water fans, it's just fine. Not only is it just fine, but it's just plain fun. The fellowship at our Field Day event is probably just as much of a reason to attend as the technical aspect of the event.

What's more is you can take a break and check out the museum, and even take a stroll around the hangars to see some pretty amazing aircraft. Hey this year we have a new club member Don - KM6INR who is a pilot with a plane. Maybe we can send him up in the air and we can get some ground to air QSO's with him! Another cool thing that happened last year was the fact that their Pancake Fly-in was on one of the days we were operating. A bunch of us went over and had a nice warm

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pancake and sausage breakfast early in the morning and shot the breeze with a bunch of out of town pilots. It was really cool.As a reminder, you don't have to spend the entire two days there, you can come and just hang out for a couple hours if you want! Also for all of our Tech's in the club - You'll be able to sit down and operate some HF with us there. It's a great experience for all club members regardless of what license you have. Our club meeting in May is going to be devoted to the Field Day event - the Do's and the don'ts that the airport expects us to adhere to, who's brining what and who's going where, safety matters, you know… that kind of stuff. It's going to be a great meeting where we encourage your questions, so please be sure to make it.Field Day is a great event for so many reasons, and we're going to have such a great time. I'm really looking forward to it and I hope you are as well.

We'll see you at the next meeting!

**73, Frank, KJ6RWQ**

## VVRC CLUB NOTES FOR 2017, MARCH AND APRIL.

**MARCH** was a light month and no official business but, Kevin did have a swarm of interested ham folk looking about the cool testing equipment he had on display.

**AND NOW FOR APRIL**

Board of directors meeting held to get official business out of the way and topics were:

Online renewal is working out great. Voted yea to have more funds supplied to have postage supplied for our postcards for guest checkins and new hams licensed in the area.

Voted yea to have the official mailing address change from Bob Hewitt's house to the VVRC PO BOX for all official mail related to the VVRC.

As a reminder to all amatuer radio operators, please follow the rules & etiquette of amateur radio operation both written and implied. This includes proper repeater use by members and non members. (Do not be the South end of a Northbound horse). This includes the dirty laundry of others. (poor taste)

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Motion set forth to address issues related above in formal writing, voted yea.

Hats, extra for club to purchase to sell at later date for new & existing members (5 hats) voted, yea.

Field Day 2017 Tom will be our go between the VVRC & Bob Hawkins will be Handling all items relating to VVRC Field Day 2017.

Close of Board meeting at 6:55PM 13 APR 2017.

And on to the main event.

New members and guests Don Preston KM6INR & Sherry King KM6FNH. Guests James Singer N6JS & Matt, a newly licensed general from a Cram Exam(also doesn't know anything, yet)

Guest Speaker was Rick Littlefield from YARS (Yolo Amateur Radio Society) / Yolo ARES to discuss the Cache Creek Ridge Ride, May 6&7, 2017. Web link is yoloares.org

Hats Revisited. See Jason! KM6FAK

Bob Hewitt K6HEW touched on APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System)

Web page that supports seeing APRS information on a spiffy google map is aprs.fi

Send text message to APRS radios that support it from you Phone! http://smsgte.wixsite.com/smsgte .

Below is a sample of actual communication between my phone and my FTM-400 Yaesu.

1st is sending a message from the radio to the phone. 2nd pict is to prove it is me. 3rd pict is from phone to radio last pict is the text conversation on the phone. So you can see APRS has many features that can be utilized for the benifit of amateur radio. Having the ability to track an operator during a rescue search helps to keep down of radio voice traffic and confirm location of search personnel and or teams. This is also done with the 2 main digital radio modes D-Star and System Fusion from Yaesu. Think of how CTCSS works for repeater uses. That is how the data is moved in those digital radios.

APRS does require a 2m Radio tuned into the APRS dedicated frequency. NO CTCSS is used and it is simplex FM mode.

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*Continued next page*

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APRS does require a 2m Radio tuned into the APRS dedicated frequency. NO CTCSS is used and it is simplex FM mode.

That is it for this month. If you Have more question relating to APRS ask Bob Hewitt K6HEW or myself, Brian Hagen KK6BXP about the +20 year old technology that is at our disposal.

**73, Brian, KK6BXP**

## What is ARRL Field Day?

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

I t is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex —ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called "hams") are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

**What is the ARRL?**

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 171,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

**What is Amateur Radio**

Often called "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it's grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

**For More Information visit: www.arrl.org**

Updated: 1/2017

## VVRC Field Day 2017 Update

**Date:** Apr 30, 2017 10:29 AM

Just a quick correction for my field day message from sent to all members on April 29.

We have permission for 4-5 "SUV"s on the edge of the field as support vehicles (in addition to the 2 rv's) , so if you are thinking of operating a station from a vehicle (or the back of a vehicle) we'll have that opportunity.

We can also use the parking lot for members and guests parking. Bob Hawkins, KM6BXZ

# Same-band Alternating CQs Now Prohibited for HF and VHF ARRL Contests

With updates to the ARRL web now in place, the ARRL's Contest Rules for HF and VHF have been updated (as a rules clarification) to clearly **prohibit Alternating CQs** on two or more frequencies in the same band. This is a clarification only to existing rules where "one transmitted signal per band" is discussed. Example is from the "General Rules for ARRL Contests Below 30 MHz", where rule 2.1.2 has now been clarified to read as follows:

*2.1.2. Single-Operator stations are allowed only one transmitted signal per band at any given time, regardless of mode; alternating CQs on two or more frequencies in the same band is prohibited.*

Where "one transmitted signal per band" appears in HF or VHF rules, similar clarifications are now in place in the ARRL web rules (if you or anyone sees that I missed any, please advise). I noted the IARU International HF Championship already contained this verbiage.

As a paragraph describing this action:

"These rule clarifications now add clarity to the intent of prohibiting the use of more than one frequency at a time on one band for soliciting contacts (calling CQ) as well as simultaneous transmissions of any kind. The intent of the rules has always been that a participant would use/ occupy only a single channel in a given band, changing frequency in-band from time to time leaving a CQ frequency to work a multiplier or to change the CQing frequency as band occupancy or changing propagation dictated, and this rules clarification will now give the needed added clarity to that intent."

# Radio 'Hams' on Alert For Spies

**Amateur Operators Ready to Block Espionage in Case of War.**

WEST HARTFORD, CONN.—The possibility that foreign agents, in event of war, might make use of short wave radio to transmit information by disguising themselves as "Hams" has been dissipated, according to informed opinion, received here.

There was no question regarding the loyalty of the licensed radio amateurs themselves, but it was thought that, screened by thousands amateur signals a foreign spy might be able to hide in the busy air channels and send out vital data unmolested.

The danger did not materialize largely use the radio amateurs required to be U. S. citizens, are intensely loyal. Probably more secret information and instructions move today via diplomatic pouches and similar modes through radio channels. Subversive radio operations, at least in amateur bands, has been notably unsuccessful.

**Trap for Spies.**

Apart from excellent policing, there are several reasons for this. "The screen" of amateur signals been found by foreign agents be no comfortable hiding place rather a sharp-jawed trap that closes relentlessly whenever anything the least bit questionable as on the air. Any spy fool- enough to venture into the crowded amateur air lanes would find dozens of ears were alert to anything he might send.

The extent of this observer coverage is shown by the recent experience of an East coast amateur operator. Following a "CQ"—general inquiry call expressing willingness-totes to talk with any station that might answer—he heard a foreign amateur answer him. Obeying the Federal Communications commit Commission on talking with foreign amateurs during the duration of the American operator did not answer. The next morning the American Radio Relay league headquarters in West Hartford had half a dozen reports from its observers stating that foreign station had been calling the eastern operator. The entire incident probably took less than three minutes —yet not merely one but several observers heard and reported it. No occurrence in the least suspicious passes unnoticed.

**Much Talent Available**

Responsibility for planning the functions to be performed by amateur radio in the event of United Sates participation in the war lies at the amateur radio committee the defense communications aid. With

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## ARLX002 30th International Marconi Day Event Set for April 22

**Special Bulletin 2 ARLX002**
**From ARRL Headquarters**
**Newington CT April 5, 2017**
**To all radio amateurs**

Dozens of official "award stations" have registered to take part in the 2017 International Marconi Day (IMD) event, this year being held on April 22, 0000-2359 UTC (starting on April 21 in US time zones).

All contacts counting toward the Marconi Award must be made on HF with registered stations, but other participating stations do not need to be registered to claim awards. This year marks the 30th IMD, held each year to mark the anniversary of wireless pioneer Guglielmo Marconi's birth on April 25, 1874. IMD is observed each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday. Many special event stations - some operating from Marconi-related sites - will be on the air.

Marconi Award certificates are available for both transmitting stations and shortwave listeners (SWLs).

The event is not a contest but an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with historic Marconi sites using HF communication techniques descended from those used by Marconi, and to earn an award certificate for working or hearing a requisite number of Marconi stations.

There are two categories. Transmitting amateurs attempt to complete contacts with 15 of the official award stations, while shortwave listeners attempt to log two-way communications made by 15 of the official award stations.

International Marconi Day special event station GB4IMD will be on the air from Cornwall, helmed by members of the Cornish Amateur Radio Club, which organizes the IMD event. Cornwall was home to some of Marconi's early work. A list of participating stations is on the Cornish Amateur Radio Club's website at, http://gx4crc.com/imd-stations/ .

The Kerry Amateur Radio Group in Ireland will be taking part as an IMD award station. EI6YXQ will be set up on the site of the former Marconi Station at Ballybunion. The YXQ suffix commemorates the call sign of the Marconi Station at Ballybunion.

In the US, special event station K2M will be on the air from Binghamton, New York, the site of the remaining Marconi tower, where the inventor demonstrated in 1913 that it was possible to communicate via radio with a fast-moving train.

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For the seventh year, radio amateurs in Norfolk, England, will be active from Caister Lifeboat as part of the IMD celebration. The Norfolk Amateur Radio Club (NARC) will be on the air from special event station GB0CMS at the Caister Lifeboat Visitor Centre to commemorate the village's original Marconi wireless station, established in 1900. The station's original purpose was to communicate with ships in the North Sea and the Cross Sands lightship.

Other IMD sites with historical links to the inventor's work include Cape Cod, Massachusetts (WA1WCC and KM1CC); Nantucket Island (W1AA/MSC); Glace Bay, Nova Scotia (VE1IMD); Villa Griffone, Bologna, Italy (IY4FGM), and many others.

A Facebook page is also available at, https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=gb4imd .

**Spies-contined from page-5**

national defense and communication needs of the military forces its primary consideration the committee is setting up a correlated plan for utilizing the reservoir of self-trained personnel that comprises amateur radio. Not only as its planning include operators the army and navy, but also the a of the greater number of amateurs who because of age, dependents sex or disability are not capable of service with the fighting rest but who do useful service in as of war. Nervous system of a modern war is its communications web needed to carry intelligence between headquarters and the most extend-parts of the whole giant system.

The elements of this communication web—the signal corps in the Army special signaling units in the k2 Corps and mechanized divisions must not fail. Should they fail whole units of the precisely coordinated system might lie paralyzed and helpless.

**Well...if you haven't figured it out yet, this article was in the *Vacaville Reporter* in 1917**.

## THE BIT BUCKET
## Misc Items

Electrons may have stranger behavior than most of us thought. Elektor Magazine describes an experiment by the University of Kansas that seems to show that electrons can move from the top layer of a three-material "sandwich" to the bottom layer, without traversing the layer in the middle. Theoretical physicists seem to think that this is okay.

Your next homebrew QRP transceiver might want to include a CW decoding function. Here's a CW decoder based on the ubiquitous Arduino processor, with source code so you can experiment with it.

QRP Labs is offering the 630 meter and 2200 meter versions of their Ultimate3S WSPR Beacon Transmitter for only $25 each for the entire month of April. Remember, while the special offer is open to all amateurs worldwide, US amateurs are not yet authorized to transmit on these bands.

## FCC Approves New MF/LF Ham Bands

Hams in the U.S. will soon have two new bands on which to operate, experiment and contribute to the collective knowledge of "the radio art."

In a Report and Order issued on March 30, the FCC approved creation of secondary amateur allocations at 135.7-137.8 kHz (2200 meters) and 472-479 kHz (630 meters), the first amateur bands with wavelengths above 200 meters since the dawn of radio regulation.

**NET CONTROL OPERATORS**

**1st week of month-Jerry , KJ6SCC**
**2nd week of month-Bob KM6BXZ**
**3rd week of month-Frank, KJ6RWQ**
**4th week of month-Brian , KK6BXP**

## How to erase your Google search history

**A tip from the files of Kimkomando**

The process of erasing your Google search history is actually quite simple. Your first move is to go to Google's My Activity page. Follow the steps I gave you earlier to get there.

Then, use these steps to delete your entire search history:

- **Tap Delete activity by** - On the left side of your My Activity page, you will see a menu of actions. Tap Delete activity by.

This will bring up a selection box where you choose a delete date and product.

- **Select All Time** - Under **Delete by date** in the selection box, change Today to **All Time**. This will erase every Google search under your account from its archive. (Note: There is also an option to select a date range to delete searches from, but it's easier and more secure to delete them all.)

- **Select Search** - In the drop down menu, change All Products to **Search**. This means you'll only be deleting your search history. There are more options to choose from such as All Products, Ads, Chrome, Maps, Video Search and YouTube. If you're only looking to erase your Google search history, select Search.

- Tap **Delete** - A pop-up will appear, warning you that your activity can make Google services more useful to you, like better commute options in Maps and quicker results in Search.

- Click **OK** - Another pop-up will appear asking you to confirm that you want to delete your Search activity from all time and warns you these items will be permanently deleted from your Google Account.

- Tap **Delete**

That's it, you've successfully erased your Google search history. You should follow this procedure every few months so future searches are not archived like the ones that you just deleted. It's that simple.

# The Sonoma Hamfest

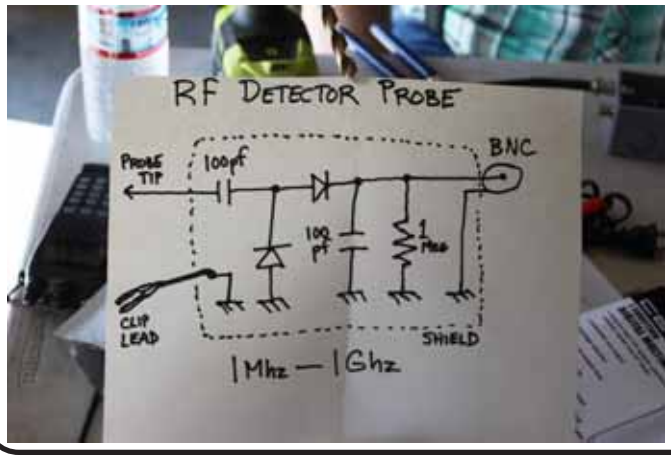
The Sonoma Hamfest wasn't as big as in the past. But....there was vintage equipment and new gear aplenty. The two photos directly below show some really great vintage gear. I had a hard time tearing my self away and wishing that I had brought an extra couple of hundred dollars. Yes…I definitely would have taken the spark gap coherer transmitter home with me. It was operating and a touch of the key produced the expected spark.

As usual the breakfast was great and included 4 sausages, an omelet and great blueberry pancakes.

# The Great Tranmitter Hunt Build Project

By any measure the transmitter hunt build project hosted by Kevin, N6VLF was an overwhelming success.

As you can see below everyone had a good time and came away with equipment that will pinpoint the elusive hidden transmitter



*Rick Littlefield*

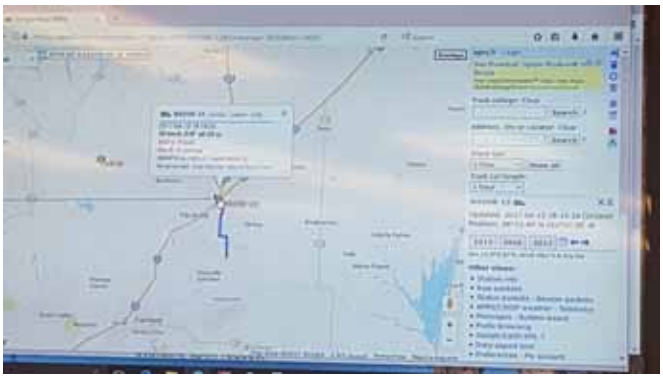
***Map of the ride***

Guest Speaker **Rick Littlefield** from YARS (Yolo Amateur Radio Society) / Yolo ARES discussed the Cache Creek Ridge Ride, May 6&7, 2017. He gave a detailed description of the ride, problems and dangers that require volunteer Ham Radio Operators along the trail

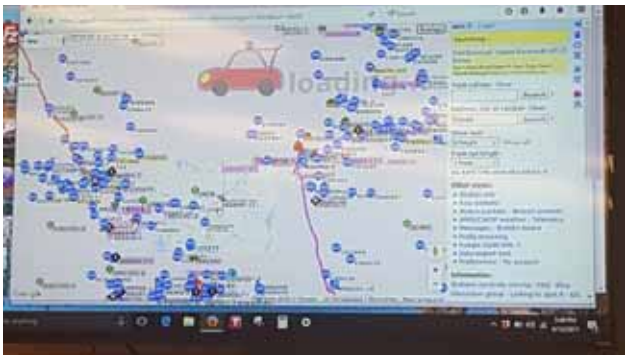
There is no cell phone service available and the only communication in an emergency would have to be by radio. Volunteers can go to the web page at .**yoloares.org** for info

## Bob, K6HEW's APRS Lecture

Bob's very informative lecture on APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) was greeted with much enthusiasm by the VVRC members and deserves a more complete description than this newsletter has time for right now.



After learning some of the many different aspects about APRS, I plan on learning more about it and get into working with it. It was obvious several of our members aere already familiar with it and enjoy it's use.



## VVRC Online Renewal

For added security, the online renewal process for the Vaca Valley Radio Club has recently been changed.

In order to renew online you must access the renewal page from the web site home page.
Got to http://w6vvr.net/
Use the "About Us" dropdown menu and select "Membership Application".
This will present you with the application form.
If you are renewing your membership you only need to fill in the name portion of the form. The rest of the form is used for new members. You can, however, use the other fields to make any corrections to your information on file.

Once the form is completed fill in the box at the bottom with the computer-generated characters. This helps keep robots from filling out the form and cluttering up the club's mail box.

When you click on the submit button, you will be taken to the PayPal shopping cart page. This is the page where you can add items to your "shopping cart". When you add an item to the cart, you will be taken to the checkout page. Please consider adding an optional donation to the repeater fund in addition to your dues. This is done by clicking on the "continue shopping" link in the upper right hand corner of the checkout page. Three donation amounts are available. You can add as many of these amounts to the cart as you wish.

Once your "shopping" has been completed you can check out and make your payment. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to make a payment. They will accept other forms of payment such as credits cards as well.

If all you are doing is making changes to your information, you do not need to make any payment. Just return to the home page when you get to the shopping cart page.

**Bob, K6HEW**

**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

### VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely — July 2016 — Dues are payable annually

FCC Name: _____ Call Sign_____
Name Badge Name:_____
Street: _____
City: _____Zip: _____
Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)
License Class: _____ ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
E-Mail Address_____
**FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)**
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)
Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Memeber ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues --------- $25.00 _____
Each Family Member -- $ 2.00 _____
Student ---------- $ 5.00 _____
Repeater donation ---------- _____

Total---------- _____
Paid by CASH: ____ Check #_____
DATE:_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143